

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An imaging catheter comprising:
a sheath comprising distal and proximal ends and defining a lumen;
an imaging device located within the lumen of a distal portion of the sheath;
a sensor coupled to the imaging device within the lumen and positioned proximal to the imaging device, wherein the sensor comprises a conductive coil, and wherein the sensor is configured to communicate with a medical positioning system;
a solid core around which the conductive coil is wrapped;
a solid, non-conductive material disposed over the sensor; and
one or more traces formed over the sensor and disposed in the solid, non-conductive material, wherein the one or more traces are configured to electrically couple the imaging device to an energy source.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The imaging catheter of claim 1, wherein the solid, non-conductive material comprises a potting layer surrounding the sensor, wherein the one or more traces are formed in the potting layer.

5. (Original) The imaging catheter of claim 1, further comprising a first wire and a second wire that are proximally coupled with the sensor, wherein the one or more traces are electrically coupled with the first wire and second wire.

6. (Original) The imaging catheter of claim 5, further comprising a driveshaft surrounding the first and second wires.

7. (Original) The imaging catheter of claim 5, wherein the first and second wires are configured as a coaxial cable having an inner cable and an outer cable, which are respectively the first and second wires.

8. (Original) The imaging catheter of claim 5, wherein the first and second wires are configured as a shielded, twisted pair.

9. (Original) The imaging catheter of claim 1, wherein the sensor is adapted to communicate with a medical positioning system.

10. (Previously Presented) The imaging catheter of claim 1, wherein the solid core comprises a solid magnetic core surrounded by the sensor.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The imaging catheter of claim 1, wherein the imaging device is an imaging transducer.

13. (Previously Presented) The imaging catheter of claim 12, wherein the imaging transducer comprises an acoustic lens coupled with a layer of piezoelectric crystal, the piezoelectric crystal being coupled with a backing material.

14. (Original) The imaging catheter of claim 13, wherein the backing material comprises a tungsten material.

15. (Previously Presented) The imaging catheter of claim 1, wherein the imaging device is in parallel with the sensor.

16. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus for use within the lumen of a blood vessel comprising:

a coaxial cable having an inner wire and an outer wire;

a drive shaft coil, having distal and proximal ends, surrounding the coaxial cable;

a sensor coil disposed distal to the drive shaft coil, wherein the sensor coil is configured to communicate with a medical positioning system;

a non-conductive layer of epoxy surrounding the sensor coil;

an inner core around which is wrapped the sensor coil;

an imaging device, having first and second terminals, disposed distal to the sensor coil; and first and second traces residing in the non-conductive layer of epoxy;

wherein one of the inner and outer wires of the coaxial cable is coupled with one of the first and second terminals of the imaging device via one of the first and second traces, and the other of the inner and outer wires of the coaxial cable is coupled with the other of the first and second terminals of the imaging device via the other of the first and second traces.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus of claim [[17]]16, wherein the inner core is a solid magnetic core.

19. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus of claim [[17]]16, wherein the inner core is a high permeability core.

20. (Original) The imaging apparatus of claim 16, wherein the imaging device is an imaging transducer.

21. (Original) The imaging apparatus of claim 20 wherein the imaging transducer comprises an acoustic lens coupled with a piezoelectric crystal layer, and the piezoelectric crystal layer is coupled with a backing material.

22. (Original) The imaging apparatus of claim 21, wherein the acoustic lens is electrically coupled with one of the first and second terminals and the backing material is electrically coupled with the other of the first and second terminals.

23. (Original) The imaging apparatus of claim 21, wherein the backing material comprises tungsten.

24. (Original) The imaging apparatus of claim 21, wherein the backing material comprises silver particles in an epoxy substrate.

25. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a sheath having a lumen, wherein the sensor coil and the imaging device are disposed in the lumen of the sheath; and

a sonolucent media disposed in the lumen of the sheath, wherein at least one of the first and second terminals is insulated from the sonolucent media in contact with the imaging transducer.

26. (Original) The imaging apparatus of claim 16 wherein the sensor coil is adapted to communicate with an external medical positioning system.

27. (Previously Presented) A medical imaging system comprising:
a medical positioning system; and
an imaging catheter adapted to be inserted into a lumen of a body, the imaging catheter including:

a catheter having distal and proximal ends and a lumen;
an imaging device located within the lumen of a distal portion of the catheter;
a sensor coupled to the imaging device within the lumen of the catheter and located proximal to the imaging device, wherein the sensor is configured to communicate with the medical positioning system;

a non-conductive material surrounding the sensor; and
one or more conductive traces formed within the non-conductive material, wherein the one or more conductive traces are configured to electrically couple the imaging device with an energy source.

28. (Previously Presented) The medical imaging system of claim 27, wherein the non-conductive material comprises parylene.

29. (Previously Presented) The medical imaging system of claim 27, wherein the non-conductive material comprises epoxy.

30. (Original) The medical imaging system of claim 27, wherein the imaging device is an imaging transducer.

31. (Original) The medical imaging system of claim 30 wherein the imaging transducer comprises an acoustic lens coupled with a layer of piezoelectric crystal, the piezoelectric crystal being coupled with a backing material.

32. (Original) The medical imaging system of claim 27, wherein the sensor includes a conductive wire wrapped around a solid magnetic core.

33. (Original) The medical imaging system of claim 27, wherein the catheter includes a driveshaft proximal to the sensor.

34. (Previously Presented) The medical imaging system of claim 27, wherein the imaging device is in parallel with the sensor.